UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,025	04/26/2001	Zhaoxi Bu	06975-083001	6907

26171 7590 11/09/2006		EXAMINER
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022		NGUYEN, HAI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2142	

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>03</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 October 2006 and 30 May 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,2,5-22,24-28 and 30-41</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-2, 5-22, 24-28, and 30-41</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is in response to the communication received on 23 October

2006 and 30 May 2006.

2.   Claims 3, 4, 23, 29 are cancelled.

3.   Claims 1-2, 5-22, 24-28, and 30-41 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on 23 October 2006 and 30 May

2006 have been fully considered but they are not deemed fully persuasive. Applicant's

arguments are deemed moot in view of the following new ground(s) of rejection as

explained here below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment to the

independent claims 1, 22, 27, which significantly affected the scope thereof.

5.   Examiner disagrees with Applicant regarding to the reference Cohen not qualified

as prior art under 35 U.S.C 102(e) rejection against the instant application because

Cohen claims priority filing dates in Provisional applications # 60/079,884 filed on 30

March 1998, # 60/095,770 filed on 07 August 1998, # 60/125,008 filed on 18 March

1999, # 60/130,600 filed on 22 April 1999, # 60/130,599 filed on 22 April 1999, #

60/138,428 filed on 10 June 1999, # 60/139,167 filed on 15 June 1999, # 60/161,283

filed on 25 October 1999, and # 60/165,231 filed on 11 November 1999. Therefore,

Cohen is qualified prior art against the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claims 1-2, 5-22, 24-28, and 30-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over **Cohen** US patent application publication # **US 2003/0097331 A1** in

view of **Fung** et al. US patent # **6,879,965 B2**.

8.   As to claim 1, Cohen discloses a method of retrieving electronic data from a

communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection *(establishing a secure connection)* between a client

system *(webbank account owners)* and a host system *(Fig. 7, the metabank server*

system) using a first account of a user *(a main account)*, the first account of the user

being maintained by the host system *([0009], [0095], [0098], [0100])*;

determining of one or more additional accounts *(accounts and sub-accounts, like,*

saving account, checking account, money market account, investment account, bong

account, credit card accounts, etc.) maintained by the host system are associated with

the user *(The account/subbaccounts and password identify the identity of the user to*

the website or webbank, and the authorized functions and clearances of the user,

[0297], [0361]-[0365]);

initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host

system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the

first account of the user *(creating or generating a main account and associated sub-*

accounts, [0100]-[0110], [0361]-[0363]);

However, Cohen does not explicitly disclose based on a determination that one or more

additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user,

automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the

host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system

and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being

associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user.

In the same field of endeavor, Fung discloses that *"The central Web site automatically*

sends the user's login information to the selected web sites and automatically connects

the user to content held at the selected web sites, e.g., co-branded bank(s)/financial

institute(s) (Fung, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 7, line 10 – col. 8, line 57; col. 10, lines 5-15).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the networking art at

the time the invention was made to have incorporated Fung's teachings of the central

user account at the central web site location to connect to the multiple selected

destination web sites, e.g., multiple selected communication sessions, *(Figs. 1-3; col. 5,*

lines 1-67; col. 10, lines 5-15) with the teachings of Cohen, for the purpose of *saving the*

user the delay and inconvenience of repetitive typing and filling out of multiple forms for

each preferred Web sites (Fung, col. 5, lines 25-30).

Cohen-Fung discloses for each of the one or more additional accounts, enabling a

transfer of electronic data *(electronic transfer funds)* associated with each of the one or

more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination in response to

automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the

client system *(Fung, users or bank members)* and the host system *(Fung, the central

Web site)(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36)*.

9.   As to claim 2, Cohen-Fung discloses accessing electronic data associated with

the first account of the user *(Cohen, [0100]-[0110], [0221], [0278], [0279], [0361]-[0363];*

Fung, first central user account, col. 5, lines 1-67).

10.   As to claim 5, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein accessing electronic data

comprises retrieving email *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295],*

[0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, col. 5, lines 1-67).

11.   As to claim 6, Cohen-Fung discloses, enabling the transfer of electronic data

comprises sending e-mail *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295],*

[0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, col. 5, lines 1-67).

12.   As to claim 7, Cohen-Fung discloses, enabling the transfer of electronic data

comprises downloading one or more files *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277],*

[0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8,

line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

13.   As to claim 8, Cohen-Fung discloses, enabling the transfer of electronic data

comprises retrieving messages posted on a message board *(Cohen, [0136], [0147],*

[0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col.

5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

14.   As to claim 9, Cohen-Fung discloses, enabling the transfer of electronic data

comprises posting messages to a message board *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192],*

[0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

15. As to claim 10, Cohen-Fung discloses wherein the first account and the one or more additional accounts comprise different screen names *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

16. As to claim 11, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein automatically initiating one or more additional communication sessions comprises automatically switching between the different screen names *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

17. As to claim 12, Cohen-Fung discloses setting preferences for initiating the first communication session *(Cohen, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, the registration information provided by a user is hosted at the central Web site location, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

18. As to claim 13, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein setting preferences comprises scheduling a time to initiate the first communication session *(Cohen, his/her own daily, or weekly access scheduling, [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Fig. 4, update file transmitted to the a bank, col. 10, line 55 – col. 11, line 24).*

19.   As to claim 14, Cohen-Fung discloses setting preferences for initiating the one or

more additional communications sessions *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line*

15 – col. 9, line 36).

20.   As to claim 15, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein setting preferences comprises

scheduling a time to automatically initiate the one or more additional communications

session *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

21.   As to claim 16, Cohen-Fung discloses setting different preferences for initiating

the first communication session and for initiating the one or more additional

communication sessions *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line*

36).

22.   As to claim 17, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein the first communication session

is initiated automatically *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line*

36).

23.   As to claim 18, Cohen-Fung discloses running the first communication session

and the one or more additional communication sessions in parallel *(Cohen, [0136],*

[0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs.

1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

24.   As to claim 19, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein the user comprises a single

member of an online service *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277],*

[0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8,

line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

25.   As to claim 20, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein the user comprises multiple

members of the online service *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9,*

line 36).

26.   As to claim 21, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein the multiple members are related

(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348],

[0350], [0465]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

27.   Claim 22 is corresponding computer readable medium claim of claim 1;

therefore, it is rejected under the same rationale as in claim 1.

28.   Claims 24-26 are similar limitations of claims 5, 6, 7, 11; therefore, they are

rejected under the same rationale as in claims 5, 6, 7, 11.

29.   Claim 27 is corresponding apparatus claim of claim 1; therefore, it is rejected

under the same rationale as in claim 1.

30.   As to claim 28, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein automatically initiating comprises

automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system *(Fung, the*

connection to the Central Web site location), the one or more additional communication

sessions *(Fung, selected destination web sites)* associated with the one or more

additional accounts *(Fung, additional accounts in institutional financial institutions)* in

response to a preference set by the user prior to initiation of the one or more additional

communication sessions *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line*

36).

31.   As to claim 30, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein authentication information

associated with the one or more additional accounts of the user may be used to enable

access to the host system *(Cohen, [0095]; [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

32.   As to claim 31, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein authentication information associated with each of the one or more additional accounts may be used to enable access to the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

33.   As to claim 32, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein authentication information associated with the first account and at least one of the one or more additional accounts may be used to enable access to the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

34.   As to claim 33, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein establishing the connection between the client system and the host system and initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection occur automatically and without user manipulation *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

35.   As to claim 34, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system,

occurs automatically and without user manipulation *(Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

36.   As to claim 35, Cohen-Fung discloses, automatically synchronizing data *(Cohen, daily or weekly updating; Fung, update file)* related to the first account of the user or the one or more additional accounts of the user wherein, prior to synchronization, the data related to the first account of the user or the one or more additional accounts of the user was stored on only one of the client system or the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

37.   As to claim 36, Cohen-Fung discloses sending an e-mail message written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, retrieving from the host system an unread e-mail message, posting a message to a newsgroup or message board that was written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, and retrieving from the host system a message to a newsgroup or message board *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0397], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

38.   As to claim 37, Cohen-Fung discloses, wherein automatically synchronizing data related to each of several accounts associated with the user *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36).*

39.   As to claim 38, Cohen-Fung discloses, the host system is a network access

service provider *(Cohen, The metabank server: Fung, Central Web site location)* that

provides network access service to enable the user to access systems *(the banking*

systems) other than the host system, the first account corresponds to a first e-mail

account of the user provided by the host system, and one of the one or more additional

accounts corresponds to an additional e-mail account provided by the host system

(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348],

[0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 –

col. 9, line 36).

40.   As to claim 39, Cohen-Fung discloses, the host system is a network access

service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access

systems other than the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274],*

[0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs.

1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36),

the first account corresponds to a first screen name for an instant messaging

service provided by the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274],*

[0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs.

1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36), and

one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to an additional screen

name *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298],*

[0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8,

line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

41.   As to claim 40, Cohen-Fung discloses the host system is a network access

service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access

systems other than the host system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274],*

[0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs.

1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9, line 36),

one of the first account or at least one of the one or more additional accounts

corresponds to a screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host

system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298],*

[0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8,

line 15 – col. 9, line 36), and

other of the first account of the user or the at least one of the one or more

additional accounts of the user correspond to an e-mail account provided by the host

system *(Cohen, [0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298],*

[0348], [0350], [0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]; Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8,

line 15 – col. 9, line 36).

42.   As to claim 41, Cohen-Fung discloses, automatically initiating at least one of the

one or more additional communication sessions when the user is not present at the

client system *(Cohen, the metabank still automatically opens its session even though*

the user logged out or left his/her webbank until the user login his/her own webbank,

([0095], [0136], [0147], [0192], [0274], [0277], [0284], [0295], [0298], [0348], [0350],

[0465]; [0221], [0278], [0279]); Fung, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 1-67; col. 8, line 15 – col. 9,

line 36).

43.   Further references of interest are cited on Form PTO-892, which is an

attachment to this action.

Conclusion

44.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Hai V. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-

3901. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-3:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hai V. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2142

THONG VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100